

DATE 1/26/07 S

200 Centennial Avenue Butte, Montana 59701

Mr. Chairman

Members of the Committee

I am Tom McGree an owner of Milo's Towing and Repair in Butte.

I am in support of House Bill 397. I believe this legislation is a tool enabling Small Business in Montana to be paid for legitimate services provided.

The costs of doing business continue to rise. In order for firms such as Milo's continue our service to the public we must be reasonably profitable.

There are occasions when our people bring in a severely damaged vehicle. Some of these vehicles are beyond repair. The driver occasionally is not willing to pay for our services. Under present statute the driver is able to remove all personal property and leave the towing company with the vehicle and no payment.

House Bill 397 corrects this problem. Under the proposal the Towing Company would be allowed to retain personal property until the debt was satisfied. Certainly there are exceptions to the proposal. These are described in the proposed statute.

I believe House bill 397 is a reasonable approach for companies such as Milo's to be paid for services rendered. I would urge your positive consideration to House Bill 397.

Thomas P. McGree

Manager